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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

A LABOR MARKET INFORMATION PUBLICATION OF THE PROGRAM PLANNING,RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS STAFF
Prepared by the Division of Labor Market Information, Research and Analysis

DECEMBER 8, 1983

UNEMPLOYMENT ROSE SLIGHTLY IN THE DISTRICT IN OCTOBER

The District

Employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate were all up in October in the District of Columbia. The levels of employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate were 290,200, 36,800, and 11.3 percent in October 1983. When employment growth (0.6 percent) fails to keep pace with labor force growth (0.8 percent), as it did between September and October of this year, a rise in the unemployment rate is the net result. Between September and October 1983 the unemployment rate rose from 11.1 percent to 11.3 percent. Seasonally adjusted, the District's unemployment rate rose from 11.3 percent in September 1983 to 11.8 percent in October 1983. This is contrary to the movements in the seasonally adjusted rate for the Nation. For the Nation, the seasonally adjusted rate dropped markedly from 9.3 percent in September 1983 to 8.8 percent in October 1983. The October 1983 rate for the Nation is 2.0 percentage points below last December's recessionary high. In the District the October 1983 seasonally adjusted rate is 1.4 percentage points higher than December's seasonally adjusted rate.

Compared to year ago estimates (October 1982 to October 1983) the employment situation of District residents continues to decline. The October 1983 jobless rate (11.3 percent) is 0.6 percentage points higher than the October 1982 jobless rate. Since October 1982 joblessness in the District has risen from 34,000 to 36,800. Employment of District residents over the year continues its upward trend (2.9 percent), but remains insufficient to offset the rise in joblessness (8.2 percent). Seasonally adjusted, the jobless rate is also up over the year, rising from 11.2 percent in September 1982 to 11.8 percent in September 1983. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
DIVISION OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION,
RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

LABOR FORCE DATA BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE a/
October 1983

	October b/ 1983	September c/ 1983	October 1982	September 1982	October 1983 Net Change From September 1983	October 1983 Net Change From October 1982
WASHINGTON, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	327,000	324,500	316,000	315,100	2,500	11,000
Total Employment	290,200	288,400	282,000	281,900	1,800	8,200
Total Unemployment	36,800	36,100	34,000	33,200	700	2,800
Unemployment Rate						
Not Seasonally Adjusted	11.3	11.1	10.7	10.5	xxx	xxx
Seasonally Adjusted	11.8	11.3	11.2	10.7	xxx	xxx
WASHINGTON, D.C. SMSA						
Civilian Labor Force	1,805,900	1,795,500	1,711,700	1,709,500	10,400	94,200
Total Employment	1,717,700	1,710,700	1,616,500	1,613,000	7,000	101,200
Total Unemployment	88,200	84,900	95,300	96,500	3,300	- 7,100
Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.7	5.6	5.6	xxx	xxx
SUBURBAN RING						
Civilian Labor Force	1,479,000	1,471,000	1,395,800	1,394,400	8,000	83,200
Total Employment	1,427,500	1,422,200	1,334,500	1,331,100	5,300	93,000
Total Unemployment	51,400	48,800	61,300	63,300	2,600	- 9,900
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.3	4.4	4.5	xxx	xxx

a/ Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding
b/ Current Month Reflects Preliminary Data
c/ Previous Month Revised Data

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia; the Virginia cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William and Loudoun Counties in Virginia; Montgomery, Prince Georges and Charles Counties in Maryland.

jobless rate has dropped substantially over the year. Since October 1982 the seasonally adjusted jobless rate for the Nation has declined 1.6 percentage points.

As the Nation's and Metropolitan Area/Suburban residents' employment situations have improved, preliminary data suggest that the composition of the District's unemployed has changed. Prior to the National recovery that began in December 1982, the pool of unemployed District residents were (concentrated) largely job losers. Since December 1982 preliminary data indicates that the pool of unemployed District residents have shifted more towards new/reentrants as the Area economy has improved. As overall job opportunities expand, individuals not previously seeking employment are attracted into the labor force. This in turn puts more individuals in the labor force than would otherwise be there. Under these conditions, if employment growth fails to keep pace with labor force growth, then joblessness will increase as job opportunties expand.

The Metropolitan Area

Like the District, Metropolitan and suburban labor force statistics are up over the month. Employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate were 1,717,700, 88,200, and 4.9 percent respectively in the Washington Metropolitan Area. These estimates of employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate were 7,000, 3,300 and 0.2 percentage points higher than the previous month's estimates. Similarly in the suburbs employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate were 5,300, 2,600 and 0.2 percentage point higher than the previous month's estimtes.

Compared to year ago estimates (October 1982 to October 1983) the employment situation of Metropolitan and Suburban residents continue to improve. Area employment continues to show strong growth rising 6.3 percent (101,200) over the year. Suburban employment has been somewhat stronger at 7.0 percent (93,000). Declines in joblessness in both the Area and suburbs have been more pronounced. Joblessness in the Area declined 7.4 percent (-7,100) between October 1982 and October 1983 to 88,200; while suburban joblessness has declined 16.2 percent (-9,900) to 51,400. As a result of these movements, the jobless rate in the Area and suburbs dropped 0.7 percentage point and 0.9 percentage point respectively.

Unemployment Insurance Activities October, 1983

Initial claims increased over the month in all categories of the regular program. The rise is due probably to the seasonal influx of claims associated with the change in the base period, effective the first week in October 1983. Claims from former federal employees were up more than 60 percent, and State U.I. claimants climbed 23 percent over the month. The State and Federal Programs both showed declines

DIVISION OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA - REGULAR PROGRAMS
October 1983

	October 1983	September 1983	October 1982	% Change From September 1983	% Change From October 1982
STATE UI PROGRAM a/					
Initial Claims Taken	3,316	2,705	4,223	+ 22.6	- 21.5
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	39,000	44,620	58,558	- 12.6	- 33.4
Number of Weeks Compensated	36,830	42,999	54,136	- 14.3	- 32.0
Amount of Benefits Paid	$5,238,738	$6,145,817	$7,652,646	- 14.8	- 31.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$142.24	$142.93	$141.36	- 0.5	+ 0.6
Average Duration d/	23.5	23.2	22.9	+ 1.3	+ 2.6
Exhaustions	1,486	1,232	1,385	+ 20.6	+ 7.3
FEDERAL PROGRAM b/					
Initial Claims Taken	339	211	400	+ 60.7	- 15.3
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	4,169	3,879	7,546	+ 7.5	- 44.8
Number of Weeks Compensated	3,707	3,632	7,329	+ 2.1	- 49.4
Amount of Benefits Paid	$602,865	$597,564	$1,190,730	+ 0.9	- 49.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$162.63	$164.53	$162.47	- 1.2	+ 0.1
Average Duration d/	26.4	27.3	23.8	- 3.3	+ 10.9
Exhaustions	138	97	232	+ 42.3	- 40.5
EX-SERVICEMEN'S PROGRAM c/					
Initial Claims Taken	96	87	65	+ 10.3	+ 47.7
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	1,218	1,083	767	+ 12.5	+ 58.8
Number of Weeks Compensated	834	759	513	+ 9.9	+ 62.6
Amount of Benefits Paid	$127,704	$116,067	$76,392	+ 10.0	+ 67.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$153.12	$152.92	$148.91	+ 0.1	+ 2.8
Average Duration d/	14.6	15.0	31.9	- 2.7	- 54.2
Exhaustions	1	1	10	—	- 90.0

a/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemen (UCX).

b/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemen (UCX).

c/ No joint claims.

d/ Ratio of weeks compensated to first payments, year ended October, 1983.

from October of last year, while the Program for Ex-Servicemen showed increases from last month and last year—the latter period near 50 percent.

Initial claims filed for the year to date period (January-October 1983) totalled 38,130 compared to 41,720 last year—a 9 percent decrease. Federal claims lead the slide, with more than 50 percent fewer claims than the January - October level last year.

The Number of Weeks Compensated declined from last month and from last year in the State Program—14 and 32 percent respectively. The weeks in the Federal Program fell nearly 50 percent from last year, but showed a modest (2 percent) increase over last month. The Program for Ex-Servicemen—in slight contrast--showed increases for both last month and last year. For the year to date period (January-October 1983) all weeks compensated stand at 565,700—a decrease of 126,400 or 18 percent from the same period last year. All programs except Ex-Servicemen showed declines, with the Federal Program showing the highest (-48 percent) relative decrease. The amount of benefits paid naturally followed the same pattern as Weeks Compensated. Benefits for claimants in all programs totalled $6.0 million in October. It was the lowest level for any month this year. It was also 33 percent below October of last year. The year-to-date expenditures in 1983 are $82.3 million compared to $100.1 million last year. The decrease was accounted for by the State and Federal Programs, while the program for Ex-Servicemen showed an increase—although not sufficient to offset the decreae in the other two programs.

The trend to date in unemployment insurance activities continues to be downward. The State Program, the largest of the three, sets the direction and the pace. The data appear to indicate that returning veterans continue to face more difficulty in their transition to civilian employment this year than last year.

Industrial Growth in the District of Columbia

The number of jobs in the District of Columbia increased slightly (0.2 percent) between September and October of this year. Although the increase was small, the fact that it occcurred in the private sector is encouraging. The small over the month increase in Manufacturing was the first since April 1983. Other industries which experienced increases were Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (1.2 percent) and Services (0.3 percent). Seasonal hiring in Educational Services accounted for most of the increase in Services employment. The number of jobs in Wholesale and Retail Trade declined 0.7 percent, while the number of jobs in Construction; and Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate held constant.

Over the month movement in total public sector employment was very slight, as a small increase in Federal employment was partially offset by a decline in State and Local Government employment.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY AND PLACE OF WORK
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA			METROPOLITAN AREA		
	October a/ 1983	September b/ 1983	October 1982	October a/ 1983	September b/ 1983	October 1982
TOTAL	589.5	588.6	589.8	1,625.2	1,620.4	1,593.8
Total Private Sector	331.4	330.6	335.9	1,095.4	1,092.6	1,068.3
Manufacturing	13.8	13.5	13.5	65.5	64.2	61.0
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	4.7	4.8	4.9
Printing & Publishing	11.0	10.8	10.7	24.7	23.8	23.1
All Others	2.1	2.0	2.1	36.1	35.6	33.0
Construction	10.4	10.4	10.4	75.1	74.9	69.6
Transportation, Communication Public Utilities	25.7	25.4	25.8	77.1	76.3	74.2
Interstate Railroads	3.5	3.5	3.4	4.5	4.5	4.4
Other Transportation	4.4	4.2	4.7	31.9	31.3	30.1
Communication & Public Utilities	17.8	17.7d/	17.7	40.7	40.5d/	39.7
Trade	58.7	59.1	60.1	308.8	308.1	302.3
Wholesale	9.7	10.0	10.2	60.6	60.6	57.7
Retail	49.0	49.1	49.9	248.2	247.5	244.6
General Merchandise	5.8	5.8	5.8	34.9	34.4	36.0
Food	4.1	4.2	4.0	31.2	31.3	30.2
Automotive	2.1	2.2	2.0	27.5	27.4	26.9
Apparel & Accessories	4.4	4.3	4.7	17.8	17.5	17.8
Eating & Drinking	23.1	23.0	23.3	80.3	80.6	78.6
Miscellaneous	9.5	9.6	10.1	56.5	56.3	55.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	33.1	33.1	33.3	92.0	92.5	90.5
Banking	7.3	7.3	7.3	19.9	20.0	20.1
All Other	25.8	25.8	26.0	72.1	72.5	70.4
Services	189.7	189.1	192.8	476.9	476.6	470.7
Hotels & Lodging Places	9.7	9.6	10.2	23.5	23.4	23.1
Personal Services	3.7	3.7	4.2	18.2	18.1	18.7
Business Services	35.8	36.1	35.6	NA	NA	NA
Health Services	27.1	27.4	27.8	NA	NA	NA
Legal Services	18.7d/	18.8c/	18.7	NA	NA	NA
Educational Services	33.3	32.3	33.5	NA	NA	NA
Membership Organizations	29.0	28.9	29.3	NA	NA	NA
All Other Services & Mining	32.4	32.3	33.5	435.2d/	435.1c/	428.9
Government	258.1	258.0	253.9	529.8	527.8	525.5
Federal Government	211.3	210.4	207.0	348.4	347.4	344.8
State & Local Government	46.8	47.6	46.9	181.4	180.4	180.7

a/ Preliminary b/ Revised c/ Strike d/ Strike Over

Data includes all full-and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

SOURCE: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Division of Labor Market Information, Research and Analysis in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, Maryland Department of Human Resources, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Technical Note
Measure of Statistical Error

The monthly industry estimates are based on a sample of firms in the District of Columbia and the Washington, D.C. SMSA. They are therefore, subject to sampling errors. This is to say that the monthly estimates may differ from a comprehensive employment count (ES 202 Record) if it were available on a timely, monthly basis. Because these sampling errors do occur, the industry estimates are revised annually to reflect new benchmark estimates based on comprehensive counts derived from the Unemployment Insurance (ES-202) records. Table III shows the degree to which the original monthly estimates deviated from the comprehensive employment (ES-202) level for March 1982, our most recent benchmark estimates.

TABLE III
INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES BEFORE AND AFTER REVISIONS TO MARCH 1982 BENCHMARK LEVELS (000)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

	March 1982 Benchmark Estimate	Original Estimate	Percent Change
Total	593.7	600.9	1.2
Private	334.7	335.5	.2
Manufacturing	13.4	14.2	6.0
Construction	10.8	11.4	5.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	26.0	26.0	0
Trade	59.8	63.2	5.7
Wholesale	10.5	11.6	10.5
Retail	49.3	51.6	4.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	33.0	33.5	1.5
Services	191.7	187.2	-2.4
Government	259.0	265.4	2.5
Federal	211.3	217.9	3.1
State and Local	47.7	47.5	- .4

Washington D.C. SMSA

	March 1982 Benchmark Estimate	Original Estimate	Percent Change
Total	1,576.6	1,577.2	*
Private	1,047.2	1,046.8	*
Manufacturing	58.1	58.8	1.2
Construction	65.4	67.2	2.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	72.9	72.4	-.7
Trade	297.7	312.3	4.9
Wholesale	56.8	60.7	6.9
Retail	240.9	251.6	4.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	89.6	91.4	2.0
Services	463.5	449.9	- 2.9
Government	529.4	530.4	.2
Federal	345.5	345.0	-.1
State and Local	183.9	185.4	.8
			*

*Less than one tenth of one percent

Over the Year Changes in the District

There was a slight decline in the number of jobs in the District between October 1982 and October 1983. The number of private sector jobs declined over the year for the tenth consecutive month, as declines were registered in every private sector industry listed except Manufacturing and Construction. The number of jobs in Wholesale and Retail Trade declined for the twelth consecutive month. The number of Construction jobs held constant, ending an eight-month decline. The number of Manufacturing jobs increased 2.2 percent, compared to October 1982.

In the public sector, Federal employment increased 2.1 percent, while State and Local Government employment declined 0.2 percent over the year.

Industrial Growth in the Metropolitan Area

The number of jobs in the Metropolitan Area increased 0.3 percent between September and October of this year. Eighty-one percent of the jobs growth took place in the suburbs. Employment was up modestly in all private sector industries except Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate, where there was a small decline in the number of suburban jobs.

In the public sector, federal government employment rose 0.3 percent. Nine out of ten of those jobs were in the District. In State and Local Government, however, seasonal increases in suburban jurisdictions pushed employment upward slightly.

Over the Year Changes in the Area

Between October 1982 and October 1983, the number of Area jobs increased 2.0 percent, reflecting private sector growth in suburban jurisdictions (up 4.3 percent), and public sector growth in the District of Columbia (up 1.7 percent). Except for Manufacturing, all private sector growth took place in the suburbs. The number of Manufacturing jobs increased 2.2 percent in the District and 8.8 percent in the surburbs. Suburban private sector growth was greatest in Construction (9.3 percent); Manufacturing; the Wholesale Trade sector (7.2 percent); and Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (6.2 percent).

In the public sector, growth was concentrated in Federal jobs in the District, up 2.1 percent over the year.

Unemployment Rates in the Area, the States and Selected Cites

When compared to other Metropolitan Areas across the country, the Washington Area had one of the lowest unemployment rates in September 1983 (4.7 percent). The Area ranked 226 out of 244 Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, ranked from highest to lowest unemployment. No major metropolitan area had a lower unemployment rate than the Washington D.C. SMSA. Between August and September the Area changed its ranking from the 216th highest to the 226th highest SMSA. If the scale were reversed, then the SMSA with the lowest unemployment rate would rank first, and the Washington, D.C. SMSA would rank 19th.

EMPLOYMENT IN GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
(Thousands of Jobs)
October

Industry Sector	1981	1982	1983	NET CHANGE FROM: 1981 to 1982	1982 to 1983	1981 1983
Total	601.7	589.8	589.5	-11.9	-0.3	-12.2
Private	338.5	335.9	331.4	- 2.6	-4.5	-7.1
Gov't	263.2	253.9	258.1	- 9.3	+4.2	-5.1
Federal	217.4	207.0	211.3	-10.4	+4.3	- 6.1
D.C.	45.8	46.9	46.8	+ 1.1	-0.1	+ 0.1

Between October 1981 and October 1983, the net decline in the total number of jobs was 12,200, including a net decline of 6,100 Federal Government jobs.

When the District proper was ranked with the states, however, it had the 6th highest rate (11.1 percent) in September. This is the same position it held in August 1983. West Virginia (15.1 percent), Michigan (12.3 percent), Alabama (12.2 percent) Louisiana (11.6 percent) and Mississippi (11.3 percent) had higher rates. New Hampshire with a state wide rate of 3.6 percent was the lowest.

Because the District is in reality a central city, a comparison to other central cities is probably a better measure of its comparative employment situation. The average unemployment rate 24 in selected central cities was 10.5 in September compared to the District's 11.1 percent. This ranked the District number eight out of the 24 central cities, up from number eleven in August. The District shared the number eight position with Miami in September. Central city rates ranged from a high of 20.0 percent to a low of 6.2 percent.

Unemployment Rates in Selected U.S. Cities

August and September 1983 and September 1982

	City	September	August	September
1.	Gary, Indiana	20.0	19.9	N/A
2.	Detroit, Michigan	16.3	19.5	18.4
3.	Cleveland, Ohio	15.7	15.0	N/A
4.	Birmingham, Alabama	15.2	14.7	18.4
5.	Dayton, Ohio	14.1	14.2	N/A
6.	Newark, New Jersey	13.6	14.6	15.0
7.	Cincinnati, Ohio	12.5	11.8	N/A
8.	District of Columbia	11.1	11.4	10.5
9.	Miami, Florida	11.1	11.2	10.8
10.	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	11.0	12.1	14.4
11.	Houston, Texas	11.0	9.9	8.8
12.	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	10.6	11.1	10.8
13.	Los Angeles, California	10.5	11.6	10.5
14.	Chicago, Illinois	10.4	11.6	12.7
15.	New York, New York	10.1	10.6	9.2
16.	New Orleans	10.0	10.0	9.7
17.	Columbus, Ohio	9.9	9.2	N/A
18.	Kansas City, Missouri	9.0	9.7	10.6
19.	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	8.7	9.0	9.0
20.	Atlanta, Georgia	8.6	8.4	8.6
21.	Boston, Massachuetts	8.2	7.1	8.7
22.	Salt Lake City, Utah	8.0	8.8	9.0
23.	Baltimore, Maryland	7.9	8.2	11.3
24.	Dallas, Texas	6.2	5.4	7.0

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for the month of October 1983 increased $7.27. Average Weekly Hours were up 0.3 of an hour with Average Hourly Earnings increasing 11¢ an hour.

The largest increase occurred in Printing and Publishing. Weekly Earnings rose $38.77 as Weekly Hours increased 2.6 of an hour. Hourly Earnings reflect a increase of 22¢ an hour. Overtime worked at premium pay was the major factor.

Food and Kindred Products showed the greatest overall decrease in Weekly Earnings, a $75.62 drop. It also showed a substantial drop in Weekly Hours of 5.9 of an hour. The decrease was due to a shorter work week as well as less business, other than seasonal. However, Hourly Earnings showed a slight increase of 2¢ an hour.

EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA
October, 1983

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	October 1983	September 1983	October 1982	October 1983	September 1983	October 1982	October 1983	September 1983	October 1982
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	386.72	379.45	369.01	40.2	39.9	38.2	9.62	9.51	9.66
Durable Goods	341.01	342.63	312.99	42.1	42.3	41.9	8.10	8.10	7.47
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	360.42	349.35	319.97	43.9	42.5	40.4	8.21	8.22	7.92
Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	356.16	350.28	306.03	42.4	41.8	39.9	8.40	8.38	b/7.67
Non-durable Goods	438.14	422.20	420.73	38.0	37.1	34.8	11.53	11.38	12.09
Food & Kindred Products	467.86	543.48	420.02	36.1	42.0	33.9	g/12.96 k/a/12.94		c/12.39 d/
Printing & Publishing	459.78	421.01	438.60	38.8	36.2	34.4	a/11.85	c/11.63	a/12.75 b/

Total Production Workers	October '83	September '83	October '82
	36,200	35,200	29,500

a/Overtime worked b/ Pay increase c/ Less overtime
d/ Change in hourly earnings due to shift work pay differential
g/ Shorter work week j/ More business (other than seasonal)
k/ Less business (other than seasonal)